

## STREET CAR MAIL BOXES TO BE TRIED

Government Plans to Facilitate Collection System.

### WASHINGTON MAY BENEFIT

Letters Can Be Deposited While Cars Move Along at a Moderated Rate of Speed.

The plan of "rapid transit" (street car) mail collection, as fully explained in The Times some months ago, by which all the street cars of the country will probably before long, be equipped with ingeniously constructed mail collecting receptacles available for use by the public on moving street cars, will soon be put to a test by Postmaster Merritt on one or more of the lines of cars in this city.

The plan offers some striking advantages in the way of facilitating the collection of local letters, and Postmaster Merritt is to be commended upon having the Government select Washington as the place of its initial trial.

It is understood that negotiations will in a few days be entered into with the Washington traction companies looking to their consent to the use of a certain number of cars for the proposed postal experiment, and should these negotiations be successful, it is not unlikely that within a month or two, the people of this city will witness the first practical demonstration of a system of trolley postal collections, whose growth is probably destined to be co-extensive with the electric railway system of the country.

#### Features of Service.

The leading features of the proposed new mail service may be thus explained: The public will go about posting letters on the street cars in the same way precisely that they now go about boarding the cars to ride. As the car approaches the street corner, the would-be mail depositor will step from the sidewalk to meet it, when the motorman, at a few paces from him, will "down-break," just as he does at present, when one is about to ride, but only, in this case, as for a "quarter-stop" of the car. The time required, will, by an accurate calculation, be but four seconds, owing to the structure of the new "street car letter-catcher," and the instantaneous yet nicely graduated action of the perfect modern car break. In this time, however, the intending mail depositor will be enabled to deposit his letter into a long and wide "drop-letter slot," running downward and along the guard rail of the car, and extending a distance of some four or five feet. This slot or "mouth" will be perfectly clear or flush, having no covering whatever, and, while the elements may freely beat into it, the least moisture will be diverted from the compartment for the letters by interior mechanical arrangements.

At the time when the deposit of the letter is to be made the car is to be run at the moderated rate of speed at which it is now usually run when a male passenger is about to board it without its stoppage. The "right-hand" crossing will be the "mailing crossing;" the presence alone of a would-be mail depositor there will at once distinguish him from a car passenger.

#### Routes to Be Rearranged.

The street letter boxes are to be used as much as ever, or more. The central feature of the scheme is that the routes of carriers and collectors are to be rearranged so as to cross and recross as frequently as possible the neighboring car lines, so that the men may thus rapidly and continuously empty the corner boxes and promptly dispatch their contents to the postoffice, either on a car line directly connecting therewith or some line from which the mail will be shunted all day by a mail transfer agent to a postoffice connecting line.

Incidentally, the new service will provide the public with mail collection machinery by which, at any hour of the day or night, or at any point in the city or its environs, an ordinary or a special delivery letter may be immediately dispatched to the nearest distributing center.

The new mail system will differ fundamentally from that in use in Hartford, Conn., and one or two other smaller cities, where ordinary street corner boxes are used on street cars. The "McAllister" apparatus, as it is called, is practically a "letter-catcher," admitting of that more or less instantaneous taking up of letters by the moving trolley car that likens it, in principle at least, to the mail-catcher, for taking up mail bags, on the general railroads.

#### Plan to Be Tried.

So important is the system to be tried regarded by the Postoffice Department that it was only after an exhaustive study of it by postoffice experts, including Major James E. Bell, of the Washington city office; Charles Hedges, of the free delivery division, and T. W. McGregor, of the Postoffice supplies division, that it was decided to allow a practical test of its merits in this city. Postmaster Merritt is desirous that the idea shall at least have a full and fair test, and, in the event of this test proving satisfactory, he will probably make an effort to have Washington given the benefit of the new trolley collection service on an extended scale.

#### GEO. DRIVER TO CELEBRATE

ANNIVERSARY OF BUSINESS  
George W. Driver on December 11 will celebrate the anniversary of the fortieth year of his business career in Washington. Mr. Driver enjoys the distinction of being the oldest restaurateur in continuous business at the National Capital. His establishment, 606 Pennsylvania Avenue, has been entirely refitted and refurbished, and is one of the most popular resorts for gentlemen in this city. Mr. Driver extends a cordial invitation to his friends to be present on that occasion.

## PRIZE BULLOCKS WILL MAKE CHRISTMAS CHEER

Each of His 1,805 Pounds Sold for Fifty-six Cents.

CHICAGO, Dec. 6.—Ten-dollar beef-steaks on midwinter bills of fare will cause the epicurean trenchermen of New York to open their eyes.

A double sirloin cut from the smooth flanks of Shamrock, grand champion beef animal of the International Live Stock Exposition, will cost that much, and probably more, in select metropolitan cafes. Served a la bordelaise, with a garnish of mushrooms, and with side dishes, and a small bottle, for instance, its price will equal that at which many a long horn steer from Western cattle ranges has been marketed.

The prize bullock was sold at auction yesterday to Richard Webber, of New York, for 56 cents a pound. He tipped the scales at 1,805 pounds, making his purchase price \$1,010.80. He will be shipped to New York and slaughtered for the holiday trade.

### DEATH OF MOTHER OF SENATOR ELKINS' WIFE

ELKINS, W. Va., Dec. 6.—Mrs. Henry G. Davis, mother of Senator Elkins' wife, died here this morning.

## UNEXPLAINED DEATH OF POISONED-BEER VICTIM

Police Unable to Discover a Clue.

NEW YORK, Dec. 6.—The police today are no nearer to a solution of the mystery surrounding the death of George Leyh, the Williamsburg truss manufacturer, than they were five days ago, when he drank the poisoned beer which killed him.

The peculiar circumstances of the case and the mass of statements which have been made since its beginning combine to form one of the strangest problems which the Williamsburg police have ever had to cope with. When they at last awoke to the real situation and saw its importance, the aid of the Brooklyn detective bureau was called in, and Inspector Druhan took charge.

Already many important hours had been lost before the police finally decided that they had a well developed poisoning job to work out. Inspector Druhan says that his men are still groping in the dark. They have not yet settled on a

motive for murder, nor have they uncovered a single clue of real value. The beer was still awaiting chemical analysis today.

Two theories have been held by the police since they began to get down to real work on the case. One theory is that old man Leyh was a suicide; murder is the alternative theory. Suicide does not seem a tenable conclusion after a review of the facts, although, for a time, yesterday, the police believed they were safe in settling on that as the cause of death.

When Joseph Balzer, a Broadway dealer in electrical supplies, came out yesterday with a statement that Leyh had procured sal ammoniac at his store it was thought a solution of the mystery was at hand. Chemists say that sal ammoniac is not an irritant poison and scarcely differs from common table salt.

### MICHIGANDERS ELECT

#### OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR

At the annual meeting of the Michigan State Association held Friday evening, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Edward B. Moore; vice president, George M. Burk; secretary, Benjamin A. Harlan; treasurer, B. H. Brockway. The attendance was large and the members enjoyed the social reunion. Resolutions in memory of Senator McMillan and Calvin G. Townsend were adopted and the annual banquet was arranged.

## ARRESTED ON WOMAN'S ODD STORY OF ASSAULT

Billy Jackson Found Asleep in Roadhouse.

On complaint of Eleanor Parker, of 1305 D Street northwest, the police yesterday communicated with the Montgomery county authorities and secured the arrest of "Billy" Jackson, in a deserted roadhouse on the Conduit Road.

The woman called at the Emergency Hospital Friday night, suffering from a number of bruises and a severe bite on her cheek. She said that Jackson invited her to take a drive, and hired a hack, in which they drove out upon the Conduit Road.

Arriving at an old roadhouse, just beyond the District line, which the woman says Jackson told her he owned, they alighted and entered.

She says Jackson told her he intended killing her, and bit her about the face. According to the story told the police, the hackman heard her cries and aided her to escape, afterward driving her back to Washington.

The Montgomery county deputy found Jackson asleep in the roadhouse, and took him to Rockville, where he was locked up.

## CHICAGO CONFRONTED WITH A COAL FAMINE

Supply Estimated to Be a Million Tons Short.

CHICAGO, Dec. 6.—Chicago is confronted with a serious coal situation in spite of the temporary settlement of the strike in the anthracite region. It is feared that the first cold spell will cause considerable inconvenience, and possible suffering to thousands of people.

While it has been several weeks since the first shipment of hard coal after the close of the strike was received here, local dealers estimate that the supply is 1,000,000 tons short. The stock on hand is estimated at 1,600 tons. There has been practically no cold weather up to this time to increase the demand for fuel.

There is no present prospect, the dealers say, of increasing the supply. The daily receipts, in past seasons nearly large enough to meet the demand without drawing on the reserve stock, are so small this winter they are hardly considered a factor.

Strangely enough, the price of hard coal is much lower than it was during the progress of the strike, when at one time it reached \$15 a ton. While there is no fixed price at present, it ranges from \$5 to \$8, depending on the amount of coal the dealer has on hand, and his eagerness to sell it.

## CAPITAL TRACTION CAR CRASHES INTO CHURCH

Travels Over Fifty Feet After Jumping Track.

A runaway car, No. 2018, left the Capital Traction track at First and B Streets southwest yesterday morning and struck the corner of Israel Colored Methodist Church. It ran for over fifty feet after going off the track at the sharp curve and broke down the iron fence and an iron lamp-post. About \$25 damage was done to the building. The car was but slightly injured.

Motorman Harry Clifford, who was in charge of the car, had a narrow escape. He did not desert his post and kept his foothold. Neither the crew nor any of the half dozen passengers were hurt. The cause of the accident is not known. Capitol Hill is rather steep at that point and the car went down with great momentum. To prevent a recurrence of such accidents an employee of the company has been detailed to keep the track sanded.

AT DROOPS, 925 Pa. Ave.

# YULETIDE AND MUSIC.

An Unusual Display of Magnificent Pianos, Organs, Musical Instruments, Music Rolls, Folios, Books, Musical Toys, etc., etc., of Every Description.

From all indications this will be the busiest Christmas in our history; the great wave of prosperity which has been and is sweeping over our country has brought joy to all hearts. Every factory is working overtime. In some lines there is overproduction, which means minimum selling prices! Christmas is almost at the door and along with it comes a flood of joyous memories and a desire on the part of all to make each other happy. The sentiment which prompts one to give and not the value of the gift should be considered; our stock has been so selected and enlarged that we have presents suitable for everybody's purse. Anything selected now will be delivered whenever you wish.

AT DROOP'S, 925 Pa. Ave.

## Our Club Plan.

Thousands of people would have musical instruments in their homes if they knew that they could be purchased on reasonable monthly payments; heretofore pianos and organs only have been sold on installments, but we have EXTENDED this to our small musical instrument department.

**A small cash deposit and a regular monthly payment will enable you to get any instrument you want. Fill out this coupon and mail it to us; we will send particulars.**

Name .....

Address .....

Instrument wanted .....

Times .....

AT DROOP'S, 925 Pa. Ave.

## The "Cecilian"

The Perfect Piano Player

Is an improvement on everything now before the public. It has every point of merit possessed by the other players, besides distinctive and individual features which alone entitle it to be termed

### Superior to All Others.

With the "CECILIAN" there is no pounding—no wearing on the delicate mechanism of your piano—no drowning of the treble by a rumbling and overwhelming bass! The "CECILIAN" makes music and melody—it produces beautiful tone quality—it responds to your "moods" quickly, generously, nobly.

In short, the "CECILIAN" is nearly human in its performance; it is mechanical only in so far that it relieves you of the technical drudgery—it plays the piano for you.

With the aid of the "CECILIAN" musical temperament and individuality have full sway, for you have only one thing to think of, "How well can I play this?" "What expression can I give?"

A cordial invitation is extended to you to visit our "Cecilian" parlors, where courteous salesmen will thoroughly demonstrate the instrument's merits.

AT DROOP'S, 925 Pa. Ave.

## Mason & Hamlin Organs.

By common consent it has been styled  
"The Standard of the World."

The inventors who thought out its mechanism, the mechanics who have produced it, the designers who have drawn its outline, the tuners and voicers who have manipulated its reeds—each has been a Craftsman; a worker of superior skill.

A complete stock of Chapel and Parlor Styles has just arrived from the factories.

**The Style 2358 is a Beautiful Organ for the Home. Price, \$87.00.**

On reasonable terms, if desired.

**Cabinet Organs of Other Makes from \$50 Upward.**

AT DROOP'S, 925 Pa. Ave.

## The Regina Music Box

The Standard of the World.

Brings music and song for any occasion of feasting or jollity. To young and old its ready tunefulness is a constant delight. The children may sing to its accompanying strains, the young people may dance all evening long, two-step or waltz, with the Regina as orchestra. The old people may listen to the dear old songs, so pleasant to remember. Or it may be a Regina Musicale, with the selections limited only by your personal desire, classic music, stirring marches, famous overtures, jolly rattle melodies, the Regina plays all, sweetly, melodiously.

It takes the place of a piano where there is none, or where there is no one to play. It is ever ready, always in the mood to delight with its melody.

We shall sell a limited number on the easy payment plan this year, and on receipt of the first small payment will deliver the box to you at once.

Thus you will be able to enjoy it while you are paying for it. Come in and let us show them all to you and enable you to prove to yourselves how sweet and tuneful and how different they are from all other music boxes.

**Prices Range From \$10 to \$350.**

AT DROOP'S, 925 Pa. Ave.

## The Steinway Piano

Pre-eminently the Standard of Comparison.

Used in private and preferred for public use by the world's greatest artists.

A booklet containing portraits and testimonials of these artists mailed free on application.

The reasons for preferring the "Steinway" are obvious. Three generations of Steinways have labored assiduously to produce an instrument in which is embodied the totality of an artist's ideals. No other piano possesses such mellifluous tone quality, in the depth of which lies hidden an overpowering sonority. No other piano has such an exquisitely balanced action. No other piano lasts as long. Ask the artists!

## From Its Inception the Steinway Piano Is An Art Product.

Made by men whose lives have been devoted to their profession. THE STEINWAYS have been and are ORIGINATORS. Sold on deferred payments if desired.

AT DROOP'S, 925 Pa. Ave.

## Musical Instruments.

The Washburn Mandolins and Guitars

1903 style, just received from the factories. The best in the world. Quality is not sacrificed for a low price, but value—musical value—is always given in these instruments. The name will be found burned upon the inside of every instrument. This is a guarantee of their genuineness. Look for the brand and accept no instrument without it. It will be found opposite the sound hole. Prices from \$15 up.

**The Stewart Banjos, Violins, Cornets, Flutes, Autoharps, Accordions, etc. Music Rolls, Folios, etc.**

### Sheet Music Division.

Our sheet music and music book stock is without a parallel. From the earliest classics to the latest "hits" it embraces substantially everything. A thousand different publishers are represented on our shelves and fully 500,000 different titles.

A music lover who neglects to make periodical visits to our music counters, there to examine the late productions of the leading composers, misses perforce a great deal.

AT DROOP'S, 925 Pa. Ave.

## Piano Division.

Our Piano Division enjoys the distinction of being very much the largest business of the kind in the city, extending over four floors. The number of different makes of Pianos exhibited by us is ten. What this means to the buying public will be realized when it is remembered that the choice usually offered is not over three or four makes.

There is ever a reason for the growth of an enterprise to unique proportions. The reason in this case is the confidence of the public. Confidence in the first place in the quality of the instruments, in the second place, in the low prices, and last, but not least, in the house. The quality with us comes before the price. For "quality," it has been well said, "is remembered long after price is forgotten," and this is especially true of musical instruments.

#### Statements

Made by us, both verbally and in our advertisements, are accepted by the public at face value.

Therefore, it shall be our constant aim in the future, as in the past, to rather understate the facts bearing upon the merits of our goods. Anything in the nature of exaggeration or misstatement is foreign to the policy of this house. We do not seek to make exorbitant profits by selling the "just as good" class of merchandise for nearly the price of the standard original. And in our entire line there is not, to our knowledge, one of those misleading titles (almost like a well-known name) designed for the purpose of leading the unwary astray.

OPEN EVENINGS.

## The Name of DROOP

**Suggests all kinds of musical instruments of famous make and demonstrated reliability. Christmas cannot be very merry without music, and what more delightful gift could you make than something musical?**

**DROOP'S**  
MUSIC HOUSE,  
Steinway Piano Warerooms,  
925 Penna. Ave.

AT DROOP'S, 925 Pa. Ave.

## Piano Division.

Our cheapest new piano (upright) is \$250. A piano of this grade is fully warranted, and will maintain its beauty of tone for a lifetime. This instrument is sold at

**\$10 Cash and \$5 per month.**

### Used Squares and Uprights.

\$25 will buy a good square piano, which we will take back at any time at full value as part payment on a new piano. Uprights from \$150 up.

### Our Special Agencies.

The "Gabler" Piano,  
The "Chase" Piano,  
The Huntington Piano,  
The Mason & Hamlin,  
The "Crown,"  
The "Poole,"  
The "Sterling,"  
The "Gebhardt."